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EIS002233

MR. GOSS: Good afternoon. My name is John Goss; I am the Assistant County Administrator for San Bernardino County, and I have some general comments to make, to be followed by two of our staff people, Randy Scott, who is our planning manager, and Peter Brierty, who is our Division Chief or Hazardous Materials for the County Fire Department.

1 Good afternoon. I hope your initial plans not to hold a hearing in San Bernardino County, through which you plan to transport high-level spent nuclear fuel and waste, doesn't reflect a lack of interest and concern over the potential impacts of this transport through our county.

We are appreciative that this hearing is scheduled in our county, and that our comment period has been extended. This is particularly important due to the size of San Bernardino County, which is twice the size of many states, with 20,000 square miles and the fact that hundreds of miles of interstate highways cross this county.

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on page 2 We also border the southern portion of Nevada, and unfortunately, expect that high-level nuclear waste will be transported through this county as part of the proposal; and we are deeply concerned about potential significant consequences and impacts that an accident, sabotage, or other adverse event could have on our county.

The risk of an accident -- or I should say while the risk of an accident may be small, the result of even one accident could have enormous and grave consequences on the portion of the county where the accident occurred. We are not talking about an oil spill and fire. This would have long-term, wide-spread, devastating effects on our county.

If the Federal government cannot guarantee zero tolerance against the risk of accident in the transport of high-level radioactive waste across our county, then this project should not be approved and should not proceed.

We are deeply concerned that the EIS inadequately and only superficially evaluates the transporting of spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain. The waste is controlled and supervised where it is currently located, as an example, in San Onofre. It will be controlled and supervised at Yucca Mountain. A good deal of that control and supervision is lost, however, once the fuel waste is placed in a truck or in a truck and a railroad car.

Hence, it is critical that extreme measures are taken to protect this high-level radioactive waste during transport across our county. And yet we find precious little evaluation of this risk in the EIS. It is only discussed in general terms. It gives us very little assurance that an accident during transport will not occur and how an accident will be mitigated, if it does occur.

The EIS is deficient in its current approach which fails to address the possible consequences of transportation over even plausible specific routes that are currently known or reasonably predictable. This type of evaluation is critical to local jurisdictions, such as our county, and should not be deferred until some uncertain future point in time.

The potential for release of high level radioactive materials through accidents or deliberate acts of sabotage are of grave concern to this county. The implications are far-reaching, and only minimally addressed in the EIS.

So we urge you, we implore you, to place this process on pause and undertake the needed detailed analysis of the transport of nuclear waste so that we can achieve a level of assurance that our homes, our

2 schools, our churches, for that matter our whole living environment, is adequately protected in the years  
continued to come. Thank you.

MS. SWEENEY: Thank you, sir.

[APPLAUSE.]

FACILITATOR HOLMES: Thanks very much. Randy Scott.